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THE ROSY SPORED AGARICS OR RHODOSPORAE.¹

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The Rosy Spored Agarics form an interesting group and one so favorable for study that it is proposed to give in successive Numbers of this Journal an outline of the group which shall help the beginner to recognize the common species. Care will be taken to point out the features by which the different groups can be recognized and figures of some of the more conspicuous and interesting species of each group will be given. The rarer species and those which are not well understood will not be considered.

HOW TO RECOGNIZE THE RHODOSPORAE.

When a basket of fresh specimens has been collected, spore prints should first be secured by removing the caps from selected specimens and placing them on white paper. In a few hours, if the specimens collected are in suitable condition spores will have fallen in sufficient quantity so that the spore-colors will be plainly shown. All the specimens whose spores have a distinct red or flesh color may then be selected out. These belong to the *Rosy Spored Agarics*. After a little practice many of this group can be recognized at first sight. The spores are often formed in profusion and give a pink tint to the gills, and often collect in masses on the gill and stem so that their color is readily seen.

THE GENUS CLITOPILUS.

This genus has rosy spores and may be distinguished from other members of the group by its solid stem and its decurrent gills.

KEY TO THE COMMON SPECIES OF CLITOPILUS.

The four common species may be distinguished by the following key:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Pileus white | 1. |
| Pileus gray to brownish gray..... | 2. |
| 1. Pileus firm, dry, with a delicate white bloom.... | <i>C. prunulus</i> . |
| 1. Pileus soft, slightly viscid..... | <i>C. orcella</i> . |
| 2. Pileus thick, fleshy..... | <i>C. abortivus</i> . |
| 2. Pileus thin, spores pale flesh color..... | <i>C. noveboracensis</i> . |

¹ This article was prepared for the *Mycological Bulletin*; the editor asked permission to publish it in the JOURNAL with which request Professor Beardslee kindly complied.

CLITOPILUS NOVEBORACENSIS.—This species is abundant on the Asheville Plateau and may be found especially during wet weather. The pileus is dingy gray to pale in color, thin, with a distinct odor and a bitter unpleasant taste. The gills are crowded, pale, then dingy or yellowish. The stem is solid pale gray, with an abundance of white mycelium.

It may be of value to add that this species is doubtless identical with *C. popinalis* of Europe. Specimens and photographs have been submitted to eminent European authorities and this opinion definitely verified. Bresadola also states in a recent publication that the latter species is also the same as the European *Clitocybe amarella*. I have preferred here, however, to use the common American name.

CLITOPILUS ABORTIVUS is one of our common species. It is usually found growing in colonies on the ground or on well rotted stumps and logs. It is 2-5 in. broad, gray to brownish gray, not viscid, and is covered with a delicate tomentum. The gills are pale gray, becoming rosy with the spores. The stem is solid and pale gray. Frequently clusters of plants are found which have not developed properly but have formed curious abortive masses from which the plant derives its name. The figure shows this peculiar feature well (Plate 76). This species is edible, though not of the best quality.

CLITOPILUS PRUNULUS and *CLITOPILUS ORCELLA* are close relatives and resemble each other so closely that photographs of each do not need to be given. Both are white and have decurrent gills and may be easily recognized from the photograph.

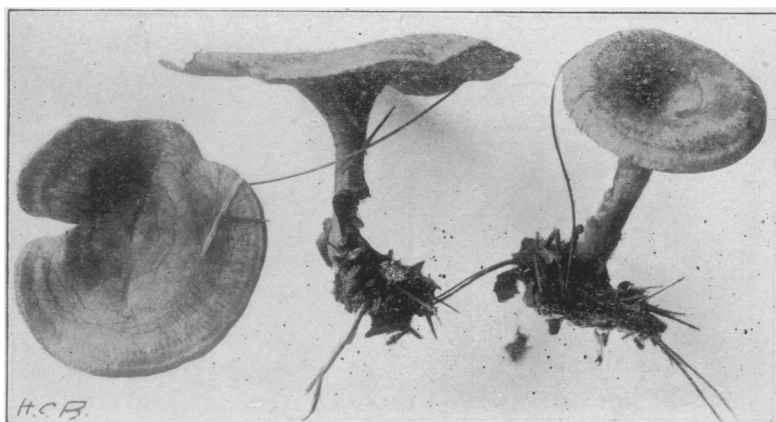
CLITOPILUS ORCELLA as noted in the key is slightly viscid, which is a convenient mark by which the species may be distinguished. Both are found in woods especially along woodland roads. They are both edible species of excellent quality.

EXPLANATION OF PLATES 76 AND 77.—In Plate 76 are shown above *Clitopilus abortivus*; both the normal and the abortive forms are given. Below are shown three specimens of *Clitopilus noveboracensis*.

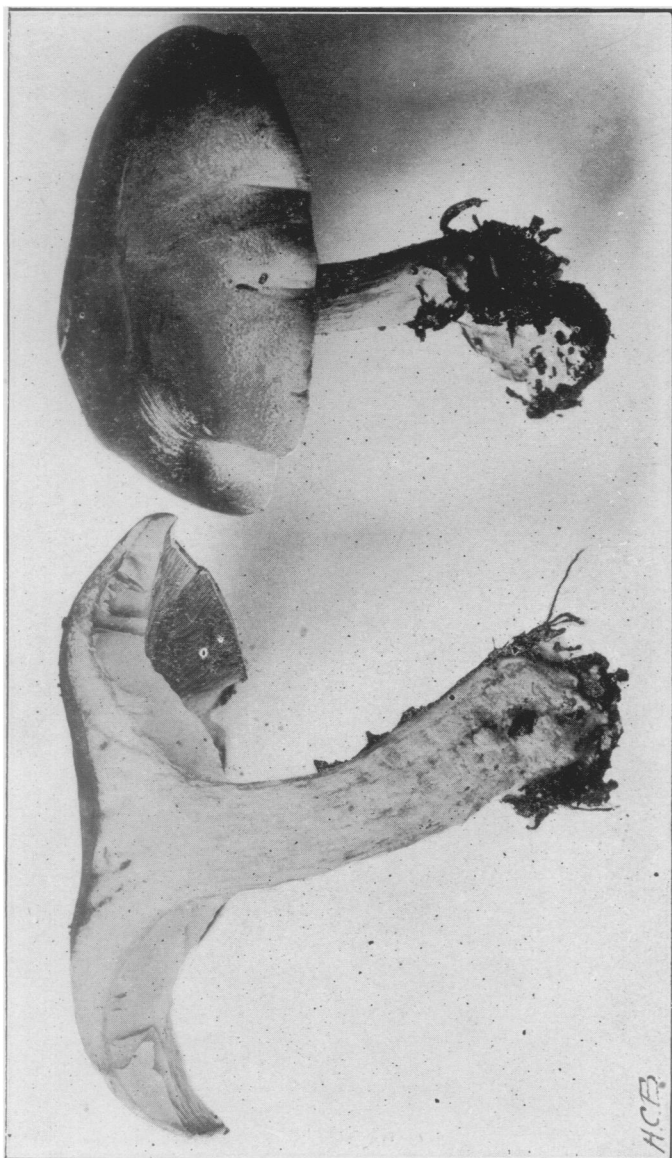
In Plate 77 a half-tone representation of *Clitopilus orcella* is given. All the photographs were taken by H. C. Beardslee, Asheville, N. C.



CLITOPILUS ABORTIVUS.



CLITOPILUS NOVEBORACENSIS.



CLITOPILUS ORCELLA.